

to the Gingrich Republican agenda that seeks to cut back on Medicare and Medicaid, that seeks to cut back on student loan programs and education programs, and that also tries to roll back the environmental agenda and the environmental protection that we have fought so hard for over the last 25 years here in the Congress.

What my constituents were telling me is that they feel there needs to be more student loan programs and programs that allow students to finance their education at college or graduate school. The same thing about Medicare; the senior citizens feel that Medicare should be expanded so that it covers prescription drugs, so that it covers home health care. And with regard to environmental programs, they would like to see more cleanup of Superfund sites and better protection and better enforcement of our environmental laws.

One thing is absolutely clear, that is that the Gingrich Republican agenda has really created a mess and the last 2 years have been a failure.

ENGLISH AS OUR OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

(Mr. ROTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, on August 1 we in this House took a historic step by passing English as our official language by a vote of 259 to 101. I thank all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives for joining me in getting this bill passed. Those of us who are committed to keeping this country as one Nation, one people—the “United” States of America realize that to do this we need one common language.

Now to complete this task we must spur the Senate into action. That's why I'm asking the Members of this body to contact their Senators and request that they take up this bill, pass it, and send it on to the President for his signature.

Then we will have completed a task we started years ago. It will demonstrate that while success does not always come with rushing speed, success does come with persistence.

English must become our official language; but that will only happen if we make it happen.

LET US REMEMBER GUAM

(Mr. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, American leadership in the world and in particular, the measured and timely response of President Clinton to Saddam Hussein's jabs into Northern Iraq should be recognized and supported by all Americans.

America's leadership in the unleashing of the cruise missiles and her projection of power in the world

has again manifested itself in these latest developments. Over the concerns of Allies and despite problems with fly over rights, America alone can project power throughout the world in the name of peace and security.

As demonstrated by the use of the B-52's, Guam remains a crucial and proud part of America's projection of power around the world. Guam did its part, there were no concerns about fly over rights, and the bases on Guam performed their role.

Mr. Speaker, let's remember Guam in more settled times as the people of Guam recover from Brac decision to close bases and as the people of Guam attempt to recover land that the military no longer desires. Even though we can always count on Guam, we should never take Guam for granted.

SITUATION IN IRAQ

(Mr. GEKAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, most of the Members of the Congress have in one way or another asserted their support of the President of the United States in the actions that he has taken in Iraq, and we will continue to do so. But there is a time now for the White House to articulate the policy and the goals and the targets of this attack with missiles on Iraq.

We should not be subjected now, as Members of Congress, to a bulletin of the missile of the day, 20-some the first time, 17 the next time and another one, most recently. This missile of the day does not constitute a policy for long-term solution of the wide-ranging problems of the Middle East. We urge the President to continue to earn the support of the Congress, to articulate a policy that we can all see and feel and hear so that we can continue to support efforts against Saddam Hussein.

THE TRUTH ABOUT AMERICAN WORKERS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the speeches are over. Rosy scenario and glad tidings are now behind us; a reality check is in order.

Over 1 million American families filed bankruptcy last year. A record number of Americans went belly up. How is that for family values to both the Democrat and Republican Parties?

Think about it. While politicians say fat city, bankers say foreclose. While politicians say super, bankers say sue.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. The truth is, while lawyers, bankers and CEO's are doing the macarena all over America, American families are going belly up in record numbers, doing the same old shuffle trying to make ends meet.

I yield back the balance of any pay they are missing.

FIGHT ILLEGAL DRUGS, NOT TOBACCO FARMERS

(Mr. FUNDERBURK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton's assault on tobacco has upset farmers all across my district in eastern North Carolina. Clinton's proposal by definition has made every tobacco grower, warehouseman and wholesaler a drug dealer and every smoker a drug user. One tobacco farmer asked me to deliver a message to the politically correct in Washington, DC. He said,

Tell the President that I am not a drug dealer, nor is anyone else in the tobacco community. In fact, there are probably fewer drug users among all tobacco growers than there are on the White House staff.

Another tobacco farmer asked me to urge Clinton to wage war on illegal drugs, not tobacco farmers. I traveled across my district visiting several tobacco farms and auction warehouses, where hard-working farmers believe Clinton decided to deflect criticism of the staggering increases in illegal teenage drug use by attacking tobacco. Mr. Speaker, the farmers of North Carolina are angry. Washington is treating them like criminals. They are taxpaying, law-abiding citizens who believe the President should keep the FDA off the farm and out of NASCAR racing.

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GINGRICH CONGRESS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today we begin the final push of the 104th congressional session, and to welcome the Republican leadership back, we have a new CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll that shows that voters prefer the Democrats in Congress over Republicans by a 10-point margin. The reason for the American people rejecting the Gingrich Republican revolution and turning toward the Democrats' families first agenda is that the Republican leadership have their priorities backward.

The American people do not support Republican efforts to cut Medicare, and the people do not support Republican efforts to cut student loans, and the American people do not support efforts to roll back environmental protections. And mostly, the American people do not support a Congress that puts their needs far below the desires of the most wealthy in our society.

Democrats are committed to fighting for working families; that is why they developed the families first agenda. It includes legislative proposals that would put Congress on the right track toward solving the problems that families face in their everyday lives. The Republican leadership should spend the